

1 1. A method of controlling volume levels in a
2 processor-based system comprising:
3 obtaining an indicia of the volume level of audio
4 information received by said system;
5 comparing the indicia to a preset level; and
6 automatically adjusting the volume level towards
7 said preset level.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein comparing includes
2 comparing the indicia to a high volume preset level and a
3 low volume preset level and wherein automatically adjusting
4 includes adjusting the volume level to a volume level
5 between the high and low preset levels.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further including receiving
2 audio information from a remote control unit and using the
3 audio information received at said remote control unit as
4 said indicia.

1 4. The method of claim 1 including providing a
2 graphical user interface and allowing a user to input said
3 preset level.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further including
2 automatically generating a plurality of sounds of

6 automatically adjust the volume level towards
7 said preset level.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to compare
3 the indicia to a high volume preset level and a low volume
4 preset level and adjust the volume level to a volume level
5 between the high and low preset levels.

1 12. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive
3 audio information from a remote control unit and use the
4 audio information received at the remote control unit as
5 the indicia.

1 13. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to produce
3 a graphical user interface to allow a user to input the
4 preset level through said graphical user interface.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 automatically generate a plurality of sounds of increasing
4 volume and receive a user selection of a desired volume
5 level.

1 15. The article of claim 14 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 correlate the time period when a user selection was
4 received to the volume of the sound being generated at the
5 time the user selection was received and record that volume
6 level as said preset level.

1 16. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 automatically adjust the volume level to the preset level
4 when the volume would otherwise exceed the preset level.

1 17. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to allow
3 the user to set a preset level through a remote control
4 unit.

1 18. The article of claim 14 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 progressively produce sounds of decreasing volume and to
4 monitor for a user input command indicative that the user
5 has selected the volume level of one of said sounds as said
6 preset level.

1 19. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a processor;

3 a storage coupled to said processor;
4 a sound generating circuit coupled to said
5 processor; and
6 software stored on said storage to control the
7 sound generated by said circuit in accordance with a pre-
8 set volume limit.

1 20. The system of claim 19 further including a
2 transceiver and a remote control unit, said remote control
3 unit communicating with said processor through said
4 transceiver.

1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein said remote
2 control unit includes a microphone for receiving sounds
3 generated by said sound generating circuit, said microphone
4 coupled to a controller in said remote control unit, said
5 controller sending signals to said processor indicative of
6 the sound levels received from said processor.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said remote
2 control unit and said transceiver communicate through
3 infrared signals.

1 23. The system of claim 19 wherein said storage also
2 stores software for producing a graphical user interface to
3 enable the user to input the preset volume limit.

1 24. The system of claim 22 wherein said storage
2 stores software which causes said sound generating circuit
3 to automatically generate a series of time spaced tones to
4 enable the user to select a tone volume as said preset
5 volume limit.

1 25. The system of claim 19 wherein said storage
2 stores a pre-set high volume limit and a pre-set low volume
3 limit and said software controls the volume of sounds
4 produced by said sound generating circuits to arrange
5 within said high and said low volume limits.

1 26. The system of claim 19 wherein said software is
2 adapted to increase the volume level when the sound
3 produced by said circuit is at a level proximate to said
4 lower volume limit and to reduce the sound when the sound
5 level is proximate to said higher volume limit.